

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I am writing to you regarding your reconsideration of the rules that require telephone companies to provide ISPs access to the public switched phone network. Removal of these requirements would be a horrific mistake.

I depend on my local Internet Service Provider to give me access to Internet services, options and SERVICE not available from the large telephone carriers. If you choose to remove my ISP's access to the public phone network, it will no longer be able to provide me and others the level of service we have come to enjoy and expect for Internet access. Such action will simply LIMIT consumer choice - not expand it.

Furthermore, by removing fair interconnection requirements and reducing our choice, you may likely also allow consumer rates to rise. For example, my current provider offers better pricing than my phone company. I am sure that by removing that kind of competition, phone companies will charge much more for their type of access which will surely just pad their bottom line.

By having a current choice among several providers, I am not only allowed to find the best services to suit my needs, but also for best price. Reducing the number of ISPs in the marketplace will certainly have the obvious result of reduced competition and increased prices for consumers in the long run.

I sincerely hope that you think very carefully what you are considering. Consumers across America are depending on you to make the right decision. The right decision is to maintain and grow the level of competition in the Internet marketplace. That goal is best met by protecting and nurturing competitive market conditions for the thousands of independent ISPs - not by handing even more market power to the monopolies who control our phone network - and provide poor service in doing so.

Commissioners, I implore you to continue to protect the ISPs' access to the public telephone networks, thereby protecting the rights of millions of voters like me.

Sincerely,

Robert Williams
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